

## High School Cohort Graduation Rate

## OUTCOME: INCREASE EDUCATIONAL SKILL LEVELS

## Countywide Planning Policy Rationale

"An important component of achieving economic development is through...improved job training and educational opportunities..." (CPP FW-35) "Job training, retraining, and educational opportunities are critical to develop and maintain a highly skilled workforce. Jurisdictions shall cooperate in efforts to meet these training and educational needs on a Countywide basis." (CPP, ED-13)

High school graduation rates provide an indicator of our region's capacity to prosper economically with a highly skilled workforce. As shown in figure 8.1, both graduation and dropout rates vary widely among King County's 19 school districts. Collectively, the districts graduated over 76% of the county's 17,268 enrolled seniors in 2005. An estimated 15% of the students in the Class of 2005 dropped out in their high school years, not receiving a diploma with their cohort. However, with a continue rate (those students continuing their education beyond their expected data of graduation) of almost 9%, more students from the 2005 Cohort have since graduated.

It is estimated that about one-quarter of the state's 314,000 public high school students are enrolled in public schools in King County. The collective dropout rate for King County's 19 school districts in the 2004-2005 academic year is 4%, slightly lower than the state average of 5%. In King County, as in Washington State, over one-half of the students who dropped out had an unknown enrollment status. Some of these students may have dropped out, recieved a GED or moved out of state.

Figure 8.1

| 2005 Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rates |                                   |                                    |                         |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| School District                          | Estimated On-Time Graduation Rate | Estimated Extended Graduation Rate | Cumulative Dropout Rate |
| Auburn                                   | 88.7%                             | 96.2%                              | 10.3%                   |
| Bellevue                                 | 86.0%                             | 89.4%                              | 9.0%                    |
| Enumclaw                                 | 89.8%                             | 93.5%                              | 9.9%                    |
| Federal Way                              | 74.7%                             | 81.0%                              | 17.3%                   |
| Highline                                 | 65.3%                             | 74.6%                              | 22.7%                   |
| Issaquah                                 | 93.6%                             | 96.6%                              | 5.5%                    |
| Kent                                     | 73.0%                             | 76.5%                              | 24.9%                   |
| Lake Washington                          | 90.2%                             | 94.8%                              | 5.0%                    |
| Mercer Island                            | 95.9%                             | 98.6%                              | 2.6%                    |
| Northshore                               | 87.7%                             | 89.6%                              | 8.9%                    |
| Renton                                   | 80.0%                             | 88.3%                              | 14.4%                   |
| Riverview                                | 84.4%                             | 87.6%                              | 4.9%                    |
| Seattle                                  | 57.6%                             | 63.0%                              | 22.1%                   |
| Shoreline                                | 83.9%                             | 90.1%                              | 11.5%                   |
| Skykomish                                | 88.9%                             | 88.9%                              | 11.1%                   |
| Snoqualmie Valley                        | 78.1%                             | 84.7%                              | 5.2%                    |
| Tahoma                                   | 81.9%                             | 85.1%                              | 16.2%                   |
| Tukwila                                  | 87.6%                             | 91.4%                              | 8.6%                    |
| Vashon                                   | 89.4%                             | 95.8%                              | 7.7%                    |
| <b>Total KC</b>                          | <b>76.5%</b>                      | <b>81.4%</b>                       | <b>15.1%</b>            |

source: Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction

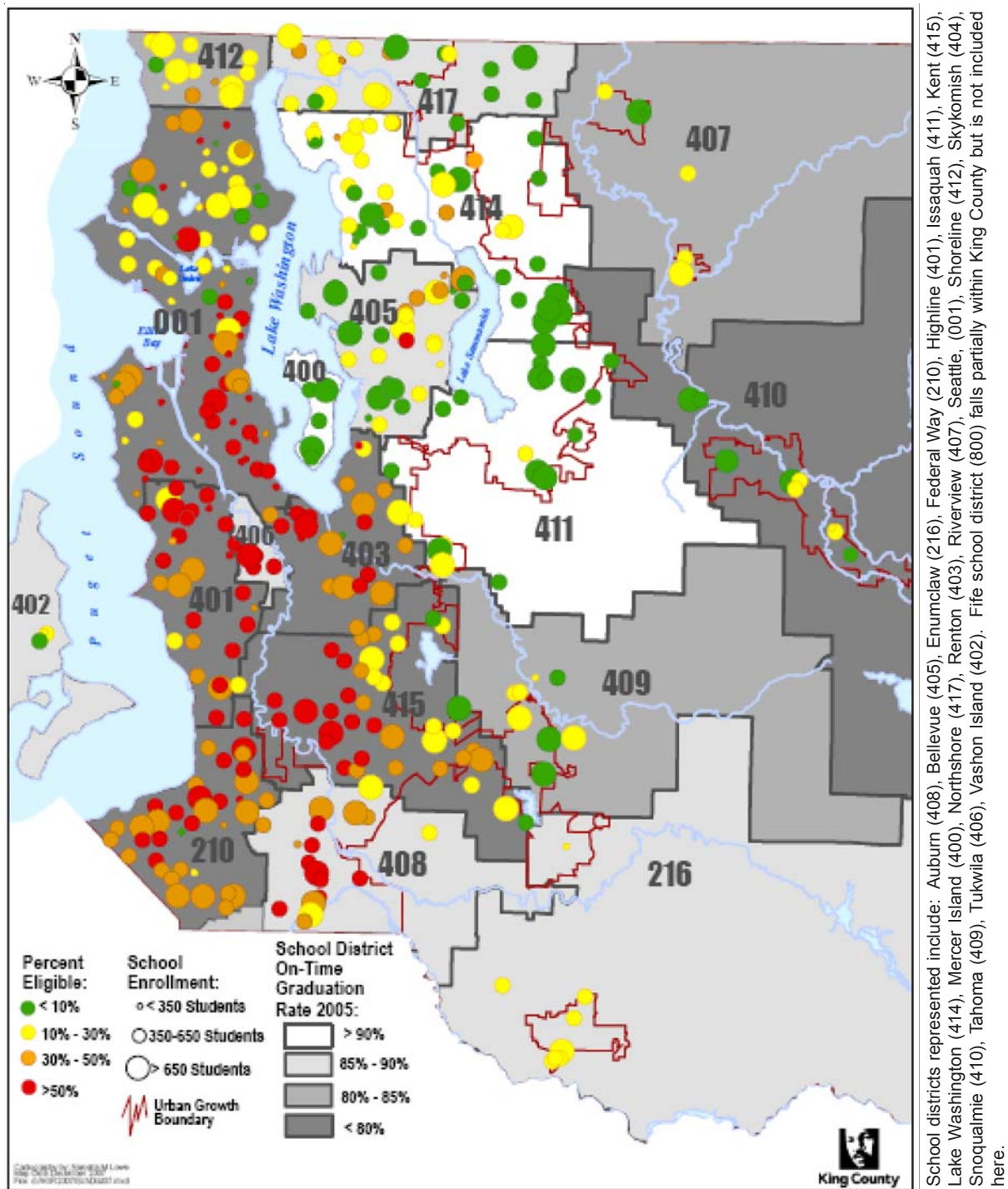
Figure 8.2

| Graduation and Dropout Rates: WA State and King County |                          |              |                           |              |                          |             |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|
|  | 2005 Cohort              |              |                           |              | All Grades               |             |
|  | On-Time Graduation Rate* |              | Extended Graduation Rate* |              | 2004-2005 Dropout Rate** |             |
|  | WA State                 | King County  | WA State                  | King County  | WA State                 | King County |
| Female   | 77.9%                    | 80.1%        | 82.4%                     | 84.2%        | 4.3%                     | 3.4%        |
| Male   | 70.9%                    | 73.0%        | 76.4%                     | 78.8%        | 5.8%                     | 4.6%        |
| American Indian  | 54.7%                    | 51.4%        | 60.6%                     | 58.5%        | 10.2%                    | 9.8%        |
| Asian/ Pacific Islander                                | 80.2%                    | 80.2%        | 85.2%                     | 85.5%        | 3.3%                     | 3.1%        |
| Black  | 60.8%                    | 57.1%        | 68.4%                     | 65.1%        | 7.0%                     | 6.6%        |
| Hispanic   | 60.2%                    | 55.8%        | 67.4%                     | 63.8%        | 8.3%                     | 7.9%        |
| White  | 77.7%                    | 81.8%        | 82.1%                     | 85.9%        | 4.4%                     | 3.1%        |
| Limited English  | 63.4%                    | 63.1%        | 75.2%                     | 73.6%        | 6.5%                     | 6.3%        |
| Special Education                                      | 59.1%                    | 57.7%        | 73.1%                     | 70.6%        | 5.7%                     | 4.7%        |
| Low Income   | 64.8%                    | 63.3%        | 72.1%                     | 71.3%        | 6.7%                     | 5.8%        |
| <b>All Students</b>                                    | <b>74.3%</b>             | <b>76.5%</b> | <b>79.3%</b>              | <b>81.4%</b> | <b>5.1%</b>              | <b>4.0%</b> |

source: Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction

\* On-time graduation rate reflects those students entering 9th grade in Fall 2001, graduating with their cohort in 2005. Extended graduation rate includes those students entering 9th grade in Fall 2001, graduating after 2005. \*\* 2004-2005 dropout rate is for all students (grades 9-12) that dropped out in the academic year.

In both King County and Washington State, female students had a higher graduation rate and lower dropout rate than their male counterparts. White and Asian/ Pacific Island students in King County had the lowest dropout rate at 3.1%. However, with almost 1,600 dropouts, white students accounted for more than half of the county's 3,100 dropouts in the 2004-2005 academic year. Conversely, with 120 dropouts, almost one in ten American Indian students dropped out, representing a much higher dropout rate in this student population than among white students.



source: Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction

### Percent Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Meals, by Public School (2006) & On-Time Graduation Rate, by School District (2005) in King County

Although there are some exceptions, a strong relationship exists between the geographic distribution of public schools that serve lower income families who qualify for free/reduced price meals and lower graduation rates. Most of the schools where more than 30% of the students are eligible for free/reduced price meals (red and orange dots) are in school districts with graduation rates below 80%. Those schools with lower eligibility for free/reduced price meals (green and yellow dots) tend to occur in school districts with higher graduation rates.